

Africa Centre for Biosafety (South Africa), AGENDA (Tanzania), Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (Togo), Asian Peasant Coalition (Asia), Biowatch (South Africa), Californians for GE-Free Agriculture (USA), Center for Food Safety (USA), Center for Genuine Agrarian Reform /SENTRA (Philippines), Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (India), Consumers International (Africa), Consumers Union (USA), Dekada '80 Movement (Philippines), Department of Environmental Studies, San Jose State University, USA, Development Training and Research Centre (Uganda), The DF Foundation (Indonesia), Eco-ropa (Europe), Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers (Moldova), Edmonds Institute (USA), Environmental Health Fund (USA), Environmental Rights Action (Nigeria), Environment Teachers Association (Uganda), ETC Group (Canada), FIELD Foundation (Indonesia), Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy (USA), Food Systems Integrity (USA), Food & Water Watch (USA), Friends of the Earth International, Friends of the Earth Mauritius, Global Justice Ecology Project (USA), GM Freeze (UK), Grassroots International (USA), GREEN Foundation (India), Greenpeace International, Greenwatch (Uganda), Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (USA), International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Togo), Kheti Virasat Mission (India), Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) (Philippines), Lok Sanjh Foundation (Pakistan), Mother Earth Foundation (Philippines), Munlochy Vigil (Scotland), National Association of Professional Environmentalists (Uganda), National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates (Philippines), The Oakland Institute (USA), Organic Farming Research Foundation (USA), Pesticide Action Network Aotearoa New Zealand, Pesticide Action Network Europe, Pesticide Action Network Germany, Pesticide Action Network Japan, Pesticide Action Network North America, Pesticide Action Network UK, Philippine Network against Liberalization of Agriculture/ PUMALAG (Philippines), Puerto Rico Project on Biosafety, Rapalmira (Colombia), Red de Accion en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas en Mexico (Mexico), Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochemical TNCs (Philippines), Safe Food Coalition (South Africa), ScienceCorps (USA), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (Philippines), Stay-Green Foundation (The Gambia), Sunray Harvesters (India), Sustainable Development Watch (Uganda), Tanggol Magsasaka /Peasant Network for Land, Justice and Human Rights (Philippines), Thanal (India), The Third World Investment Gateway (South Africa), Third World Network International, Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (Uganda), Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (Uganda), Washington Biotechnology Action Council (USA), World Society for the Protection of Animals (UK), 49th Parallel Biotechnology Consortium (Australia, Canada, Columbia, South Africa, UK, US),

14 March 2008*

Dr. Robert Watson
Director, IAASTD

Dear Dr. Watson,

We congratulate you on your success in ushering the IAASTD from its inception in 2001 to the final plenary, scheduled to take place from 7-12 April in Johannesburg, South Africa. We have been closely watching the process and are impressed with the ambition and scope of this Assessment. Unlike more narrowly framed reviews, the IAASTD has boldly and correctly tackled the complex, interrelated issues of rural poverty, hunger, food and livelihood security, environment and social equity. It has been able to accomplish this by drawing on the expert knowledge of a truly international and interdisciplinary team.

We have several concerns we'd like to raise with you:

- 1) As Director of the IAASTD, are you committed to defending the IAASTD reports at the final plenary and doing your utmost, as you did so effectively as chair of the IPCC, to achieve consensus in support of the findings and options presented in the global and regional Summaries for Decision Makers and the Synthesis Report?
- 2) In instances where agreement is not obtained in plenary in a reasonable timeframe, will you follow standard procedure and establish contact groups of concerned parties, that will be charged with working together to draft suggested language to present to the plenary? How will the decision be taken on who will chair the contact groups?
- 3) Will you confirm that civil society organizations participating in the final plenary will be equally recognized and given equal voice alongside government delegates in global and subglobal plenary discussions and in contact groups, as per your previously stated commitment?
- 4) We understand that at least one government is considering proposing 11th hour changes to the Principals and Procedures of the IAASTD. The Principles and Procedures adopted by the participating governments at the first plenary in Nairobi in 2004 clearly lay out procedures for the approval, adoption and acceptance of the IAASTD reports. Any change made to the Principles and Procedures at this point would indicate a lack of good faith participation in the process, and set a very damaging precedent for future intergovernmental processes. We hope that you will do your utmost to ensure the integrity of the IAASTD process and look forward to supporting your efforts to achieve consensus on the IAASTD reports.
- 5) We are concerned that journalists may not be allowed to observe the plenary discussions. Transparency and an open inclusive process have been the hallmarks of the IAASTD, and we suggest that the media be allowed and encouraged to attend.

We look forward to receiving detailed communications next month from our colleagues in Johannesburg as the plenary discussions take place, and we hope to receive news of the approval and adoption of these very important documents.

We are also looking forward to working with you after the plenary to help advance the innovative options put forth by the IAASTD, and to ensure that the world community acts decisively to address the challenges of agriculture, poverty and hunger at their root in this time of mounting global environmental crises.

Sincerely,*

Africa Centre for Biosafety (South Africa)

AGENDA (Tanzania)

Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (Togo)

Asian Peasant Coalition (Asia)

Biowatch (South Africa)

Californians for GE-Free Agriculture (USA)

Center for Food Safety (USA)

Center for Genuine Agrarian Reform /SENTRA (Philippines)

Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (India)

Consumers International (Africa)

Consumers Union (USA)

Dekada '80 Movement (Philippines)

Department of Environmental Studies, San Jose State University, USA

Development Training and Research Centre (Uganda)

The DF Foundation (Indonesia)

Eco-ropa (Europe)

Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers (Moldova)

Edmonds Institute (USA)

Environmental Health Fund (USA)

Environmental Rights Action (Nigeria)

Environment Teachers Association (Uganda)

ETC Group (Canada)

FIELD Foundation (Indonesia)

Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy (USA)

Food Systems Integrity (USA)

Food and Water Watch (USA)

Friends of the Earth International

Friends of the Earth Mauritius

Global Justice Ecology Project (USA)

GM Freeze (UK)

Grassroots International (USA)

GREEN Foundation (India)

Greenpeace International

Greenwatch (Uganda)

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (USA)

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Togo)

Kheti Virasat Mission (India)

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) (Philippines)

Lok Sanjh Foundation (Pakistan)

Mother Earth Foundation (Philippines)

Munlochy Vigil (Scotland)

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (Uganda)

National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates (Philippines)

The Oakland Institute (USA)

Organic Farming Research Foundation (USA)

Pesticide Action Network Aotearoa New Zealand

Pesticide Action Network Europe

Pesticide Action Network Germany

Pesticide Action Network Japan

Pesticide Action Network North America

Pesticide Action Network UK

Philippine Network against Liberalization of Agriculture/ PUMALAG (Philippines)

Practical Action (international)

Puerto Rico Project on Biosafety

Rapalmira (Colombia)

Red de Accion en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas en Mexico (Mexico)
Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochemical TNCs (Philippines)
Safe Food Coalition (South Africa)
ScienceCorps (USA)
Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (Philippines)
Stay-Green Foundation (The Gambia)
Sunray Harvesters (India)
Sustainable Development Watch (Uganda)
Tanggol Magsasaka /Peasant Network for Land, Justice and Human Rights (Philippines)
Thanal (India)
The Third World Investment Gateway (South Africa)
Third World Network International
Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (Uganda)
Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria Control (Uganda)
Washington Biotechnology Action Council (USA)
World Society for the Protection of Animals (UK)
49th Parallel Biotechnology Consortium (Australia, Canada, Columbia, South Africa, UK,
US)

Cc:

Dr. Hans Herren; Dr. Judi Wakungu, Co-Chairs
Representatives of the Cosponsoring Agencies (FAO, UNDP, WHO, UNEP, UNESCO)
Bureau Members

** Signature list updated to include 73 CSOs as of 19 March 2008*